

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



January 1992

Volume 5, Number 1

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

1992/1993 Cost-Shared Applications

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat have announced the revised criteria, guidelines and conditions for the 1992/1993 program of adult literacy cost-shared grants.

Grants for adult literacy projects have been made available through a cost-shared agreement between the MAETT and the NLS since 1987. A total of 42 projects were funded in B.C. for 1991/1992.

The goals of the cost-shared fund are to:

- ❖ encourage and improve partnerships between community groups, schools and colleges
- ❖ encourage active involvement of all sectors of society - governments, voluntary groups, educational institutions, business and labour - in activities which enhance, improve and support literacy education in B.C.
- ❖ develop learning materials and research, improve access and outreach, promote coordination and information sharing, increase public awareness and provide professional development opportunities

- ❖ support the recommendations of the Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee

The definition of literacy used for funding purposes is one adopted by ABC Canada, a national non-profit organization established in 1989 that encourages literacy initiatives by the private sector (see story on page 5):

"Literacy is the ability to read and comprehend printed material and to do numerical computation well enough to participate fully at work, at home and in the community."

(According to the application guidelines, this means reading, writing and numeracy through the fundamental, intermediate and advanced levels of the B.C. community college adult basic education delivery system.)

Groups eligible for funding include colleges, school districts, literacy organizations, professional associations, task forces and community groups.

The fund provides financial support for the following types of projects:

- * learning materials
- * research
- * access and outreach

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- * coordination and information sharing
- * public awareness
- * professional development opportunities for practitioners

Significant changes for 1992/1993 applications include:

❖ Projects that deliver instruction must be unique in B.C. and limited to one year. Written documentation from potential funders willing to fund beyond the first year is required.

❖ All projects must involve collaborative partnerships between colleges, school districts and community groups. A Partnership Agreement outlining the arrangements between partners is required. Colleges must have a collaborating community partner.

❖ Projects aimed exclusively at English as a second language will not be considered.

❖ All projects must include demonstration of need; a plan and budget for evaluation of the process and results; a plan and budget for wide distribution of the findings, product or other results.

❖ Learner involvement in planning, executing and evaluating projects will be encouraged.

The time line for the application process is:

February 15, 1992:

Partnership Agreements must be negotiated and agreed to by all parties.

March 1, 1992: Applications must be received by the NLS and the MAETT.

March 31, 1992: Review process will be completed.

The guidelines and application forms will be distributed as soon as they are available in January to: all deans and directors of adult basic education programs; coordinators of continuing education programs; all 1991/92 applicants; Literacy B.C.; the Pacific Association for Continuing Education; the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C., and the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

Application forms are also available from:

Patty Bossort
Cost Shared Projects Liaison
5th Floor, 1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3K4
Phone: 387-6119
Fax: 387-9142

Pat Hodgson
Provincial Literacy Coordinator
Ministry of Advanced Education
Training and Technology
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851

Sue Smee
Director of Projects
National Literacy Secretariat
Ottawa
Phone: (819) 953-5677
Fax: (819) 953-8076 ☐

"Host Agency" Pilot Project for Northern B.C.

A 1991/1992 literacy cost-shared pilot project designed to set up three "community contact points" to provide literacy services for B.C.'s northern region gets underway this month.

"May I Read Here? A Community Contact Pilot Project" is a partnership between the Fort St. John Literacy Society and Northern Lights College. The project has received funding for a literacy coordinator based at the College to oversee the project for an eight month period, beginning January.

David Thomas, currently Northern Lights College Director of Adult Basic Education, has been appointed project coordinator effective January 6.

The objectives of the project are to:

❖ set up three community contact points for drop-in literacy and scribe services

❖ match 20 learners with volunteer tutors and arrange convenient public meeting locations for the learner

❖ train ten more tutors and provide learner assessment services to 20 learners

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"Pilot" from page 2

The project will issue a report on the Community Contact Point pilot, which is intended to serve as a model for future projects in Fort Nelson and Dawson Creek.

The literacy coordinator will initiate the pilot project with three "host agencies" or contact points within the community. Marjorie Allen, volunteer coordinator with the Fort St. John Literacy Society, says the Society has investigated several possible agencies, and three sites will be confirmed in early January.

Some examples of possible participating host agencies, says Allen, are existing service facilities such as the Key Learning Centre, the Friendship Centre and "New Beginnings" ("Ne Swaw Roche") a Native learning and job training centre.

Each host agency will select its own tutors, either from its existing staff or from volunteers, to participate in the project. A group of ten tutors will receive training through Northern Lights College, which will provide initial and ongoing support to fulfill the training objectives of the project.

Allen says the project also plans to provide learner assessment services, through the purchase of a computer-based assessment system to be housed at the college. This service will be overseen by the project coordinator.

To promote the services available through the project, the Society has displayed "contact cards" (similar to business cards) at "unmanned Centres" such as the local Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC) office. The Society also advertises two local telephone numbers and the Adult Literacy Contact Centre toll-free telephone number.

An outline of the project appeared in the first issue of the Society's monthly *Fort St. John Literacy Newsletter* in November, 1991.

For information, contact:

Marjorie Allen
Volunteer Coordinator
Fort St. John Literacy Society
c/o S.S. 2, Site 7
Compartment 17
Fort St. John, B.C.
V1J 4M7
Phone: 785-3706
Fax: 785-1678 □

"Cooperation" Theme of ABEABC Conference

Topics, presenters and facilitators are sought for the 1992 conference and annual general meeting of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. The theme of the conference, to be held April 1-4 at the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel (Harrison Lake, B.C.), is "Cooperation in Adult Education: It's Time to Work

Together." This replaces the theme, "Integration," announced in September, 1991.

Organizers say the conference, sponsored by nine Lower Mainland school districts, "will recognize the diverse needs of college, school district and community based programs throughout the province." The conference is "designed to meet the needs of adult educators from literacy through high school in all curriculum areas."

The ABEABC seeks presenters on topics such as:

♦ sharing expertise in student assessment

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Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and mailed during the first week of every month. It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



"Conference" from page 3

- ♦ working with native communities to meet the needs of students
- ♦ developing programs in small communities
- ♦ exploring the diversity of community-based programs
- ♦ liaising with community-based literacy associations
- ♦ continuing the articulation process among all programs
- ♦ exploring the impact of English as a second language programs in adult basic education
- ♦ preparing students for entry into vocational, career and post-secondary programs

Facilitators are needed to lead group sharing sessions on curriculum areas such as mathematics, English, science and social studies.

The deadline to present a session, suggest a topic or recommend a speaker is January 24.

Contact:

Marilee Schelp
John Oliver Adult Learning Centre
530 East 41st Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5W 1P3
Phone: 324-2414
Fax: 324-9476 ☐

Literacy Resource Forum in Dawson Creek

The second Literacy Resource Forum, a hands-on workshop for literacy and adult basic education practitioners designed to introduce curricula and other materials developed through recent cost-shared projects, will be held January 23-24 at Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek.

The event is the second of four forums, one of the 1991/1992 literacy cost-shared projects between the National Literacy Secretariat and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. (Community Partner, the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.; college partner, Camosun College.) The first forum was held November 23-24 at King Edward Campus, Vancouver Community College.

Four workshops will be held over the two-day event, each offered twice daily in morning and afternoon sessions. They are:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Partnerships in Literacy: A Guide for Community Organization and Program Development

Presenter: Barbara Bate, Coordinator, Volunteer

Tutoring Program, University College of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack

The guide focuses on four major areas: developing a community literacy organization; implementing a community program; examples of innovative literacy partnerships; and descriptions of community literacy programs and projects.

Cities in British Columbia (A Social Studies Resource)

Presenter: Audrey Thomas, independent literacy consultant, Victoria.

This student work book at the ABE fundamental level focuses on five B.C. cities - Victoria, Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George and Kelowna - and includes photographs, maps, charts, statistics and 70 pieces of student writings.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Job Guide for Adult Learners

Presenter: JoAnne Pasquale, Coordinator, Resource Centre and Publications, Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development, Victoria

The *Job Guide* is an information resource for classrooms or counselling centres. It features approximately 25 job groupings and includes information on educational requirements, occupational profiles, and job markets, as well as a directory of service agencies.

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Native Literacy Research Report (Native Literacy Manual)

Presenter: Art Napoleon,
Treaty 8 Tribal Council, Fort
St. John

This workshop will report on the results of research among potential literacy learners in several B.C. Native communities. It will provide hands-on opportunities for the development of effective practices in Native literacy instruction.

Patty Bossort, Resource Forums Coordinator, and B.C. Literacy Cost-shared Projects Liaison, says the forum will also include a Thursday evening (January 23) discussion open to all forum participants on the criteria and procedures for applying for 1992/1993 cost-shared funding.

Registration is open for the forum until January 15.

The registration fee is \$15.00 for January 23 (includes wine and cheese) and \$10.00 for January 24.

Similar forums will be held February 21 in Cranbrook and March 13 in Courtenay. (Topics and registration information to be announced.)

To register, contact:

Jeannie Purvis
Northern Lights College
11401 - 8th Street
Dawson Creek, B.C.
V1G 4G2
Phone: 782-5251 ☐

New Deadline for Learner Events Funding

The deadline for literacy groups to apply for funds to hold a regional learner event this year has been extended from December 15, 1991 to January 31, 1992.

The events are funded by the 1991/1992 cost-shared project, "Learners Talking to Learners." (College partner, Selkirk College; community partners, a committee of six practitioners and six learners from around the province.)

The project provides funds for the planning, organization and delivery of an event designed to provide learners with an opportunity to discuss their needs and requirements. Application forms were sent last November to active literacy programs, learner groups and Project Literacy groups in B.C.

For information, contact:

Patty Bossort, Coordinator
Regional Learner Events
5th Floor, 1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3K4
Phone: 387-6119
Fax: 387-9142 ☐

Copies of *Learners Talking to Learners*, the summary of the 1990/1991 learner events, are available free of charge through the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

Workplace Literacy Across Canada

ABC Canada, a national non-profit organization that encourages literacy initiatives by the private sector, has published a directory of literacy programs in the Canadian workplace. The *1991 Inventory of Workplace Literacy Programs* - "a snapshot of current programs in Canada" - includes brief descriptions of over 100 programs, including contacts, and an analysis of general trends.

For the purpose of the inventory, ABC Canada defined workplace literacy programs as... "those offered to workers in a given workplace to upgrade basic reading, writing and computation skills in English or in French." Second language programs for new citizens were not included.

Five programs are listed for B.C.

ABC Canada also has available *Workplace Literacy: An Introductory Guide for Employers*, information for workplaces considering a literacy program. In an introduction to the 8-page booklet, ABC Canada Chairman W.E. Ardell says, "... *there is one powerful reason why many, many more should be concerned*

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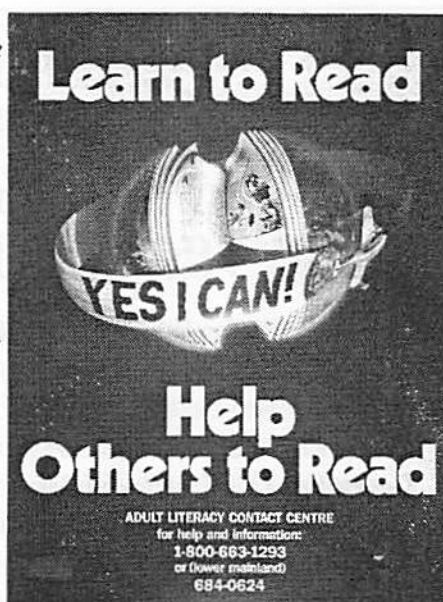
"Workplace" from page 5

[about promoting literacy in the Canadian workplace]...poor literacy skills are part and parcel of Canada's crisis in competitiveness."

The foundation has also produced the first issue of its quarterly newsletter, *Literacy at Work*.

To order any of these materials, contact:

ABC CANADA
1496 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1R9
Phone: (902) 492-2665
Fax: (902) 492-2773 ☐



Copies of this 16 1/4" x 22" four-colour poster are available free of charge from the Contact Centre

Literacy Grants for Non-Profits

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to qualified Canadian non-profit literacy organizations.

Under the Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation's 1992 Grants Program, Canadian non-profit organizations, whose major goal is to further adult literacy in Canada, are eligible for funding.

The foundation's objectives are to make literacy a high profile issue and to raise money to assist literacy groups within the community.

Literacy project requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered.

The foundation's priority is the funding of printed materials for the use of adult learners, their

teachers and tutors. The foundation encourages innovative and creative projects promoting adult literacy.

Applications for funding will be reviewed and evaluated by a Grants Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation.

Address funding requests to:

Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation
35 Spadina Road
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 2S9
Phone: (416) 975-9366
Fax: (416) 975-1839

The deadline is April 30, 1992.



ABOUT THIS ISSUE

No, you haven't missed the December, 1991 Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter -- this is the issue that would have been mailed in December. In response to many requests, we are now distributing the newsletter during the first week of the month. Watch for your next issue the first week of February.

OUR OTHER SERVICES

As well as producing this newsletter, the Adult Literacy Contact Centre has services for all B.C.:

we give information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to know about adult basic education opportunities in their own community;

we provide literacy information to the non-profit and community-based sector, business, labour, the media, all levels of government and the public at large; and

we refer volunteer tutors to adult literacy programs.

Phone free from anywhere in B.C.

1-800-663-1293

